

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing is submitted in connection with the above-identified patent application as a supplemental amendment to the claims thereof.

Claims 106-299 are pending in the present application as amended. Claims 106-279 remain pending and claims 280-299 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the supplemental amendment.

Applicants note that claims 106-279 were subject to a restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121 from among two groups of claims. Group I comprised claims 106-214 and 232-279, and Group II comprised claims 215-231. According to the Examiner, the groups are related as product and process of use. Applicants elected group I for further prosecution in connection with the present application without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application directed to the claims of group II.

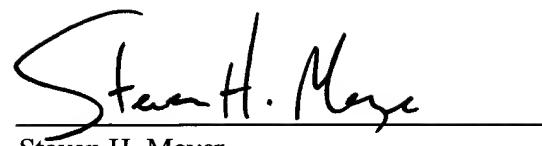
Applicants respectfully submit that elected Group I includes new claims 280-299 inasmuch as Group I and claims 280-299 are both directed to methods and not to products.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request further examination of the present application and a Notice of Allowance in due course.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0092
Application No.: 09/482,725

PATENT

Date: December 8, 2003



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